

Public Document Pack

Penallta House,
Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Ty Penallta,
Parc Tredomen,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG



www.caerphilly.gov.uk
www.caerffili.gov.uk

For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Rebecca Barrett
(Tel: 01443 864245 Email: barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 6th June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education** will be held at **Blackwood Comprehensive School, Ty-Isha Terrace, Blackwood, NP12 1ER** on **Monday, 19th June, 2017** at **2.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

- | | Pages | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | To appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair to Caerphilly SACRE. | |
| 2 | To receive apologies for absence. | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest. | |

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 4 | Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - 16th March 2017. | |
|---|---|--|

1 - 8

A greener place Man gwyrddach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



5 Matters Arising.

6 To receive a presentation from the RE Co-ordinator at Blackwood Comprehensive School.

To receive and consider the following reports:-

7 Schedule of Meetings 2017-2018.

Provisional dates listed below - final dates/venues to be confirmed at the meeting:-

- Monday 16th October 2017 (2pm) – Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach;
- Tuesday 13rd March 2018 or Thursday 22nd March 2018 (2pm) – Venue to be confirmed;
- Thursday 14th June 2018 or Wednesday 13th June 2018 (2pm) – Venue to be confirmed.

8	Results of the RE Survey of Schools - Statutory Requirements for Religious Education.	9 - 10
9	Revised GCSE and GCE Specifications for RS - Update	11 - 12
10	Update on National Curriculum Review.	13 - 16
11	Estyn Update.	17 - 18
12	Correspondence Update.	19 - 22

WASACRE:-

13	Feedback from the WASACRE Spring Meeting in Usk, Monmouthshire on 3rd March 2017 (verbal update).	
14	Representation at the forthcoming WASACRE Summer Meeting in Wrexham on Friday, 7th July 2017 (verbal update).	
15	WASACRE Executive Voting 2017-2020.	23 - 28

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, Mrs G.D. Oliver, J. Ridgewell, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds and J. Taylor

And Appropriate Officers; Trade Union Representatives and Religious Organisations



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL AND RESOURCE CENTRE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY 16TH MARCH 2017 AT 1.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Chair
Mrs J. Jones (Church in Wales) - Vice-Chair

Councillors:

Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds

Representing Teaching Organisations: Mrs L. Strange (NASUWT)

Representing Religious Organisations: Mrs E. Hawthorn (United Reform Church),
Mr M. Western (Roman Catholic Archdiocese)

Together with:

Mrs V. Thomas (RE Consultant), Mrs J. Elias (Service Manager – Additional Learning Needs),
Miss R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:

Mrs Tracey McGuirk (Deputy Head Teacher) – part of meeting

1. WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members to Trinity Fields School. SACRE thanked Mrs Tracey McGuirk (Deputy Head Teacher) for making the necessary arrangements for the meeting. Members were pleased to note that they would be observing an act of collective worship during the course of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E.M Aldworth, D.G. Carter and Mrs G.D. Oliver, Miss H. Bartley (ATL), Mrs N. Boardman (NUT), Mrs B. Davies (UCAC), Miss H. Marsh (ASCL), Mr C. Parry (NAHT), Captain C. Di-Palma (Salvation Army), Rev E. Williams (Baptist Union of Wales), and Ms R. Bradshaw (Co-opted Member).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

4. MINUTES – 18TH OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly SACRE meeting held on 18th October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Caerphilly School Inspections Report Analysis Autumn 2015 - Summer 2016 (Minute No. 7)

SACRE were updated on the follow-up action arising from an Estyn inspection at St James Primary School. At its Autumn Term 2016 meeting, SACRE were keen to ascertain whether one Estyn recommendation (which stated that the school should develop curriculum planning to ensure systematic coverage of all subjects at Key Stage 2) included Religious Education. SACRE subsequently wrote to the school to establish whether this recommendation encompassed the teaching of RE, and if so, the action being taking on this matter.

Mrs Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant to SACRE) explained that the school has now confirmed that the Estyn recommendation was a general one and that RE was not individually mentioned in the inspection report. However, all subjects (including RE) will be addressed in the school's Post-Inspection Action Plan. Mrs Thomas summarised the contents of the plan, which included planned implementation dates for each area, and confirmed that she was satisfied with the action taken on this matter. SACRE were pleased to note the detailed contents of the action plan produced by the school.

WASACRE – Feedback from the WASACRE Meeting in Rhyl, Denbighshire on 23rd June 2016 (Minute No. 13)

Members were updated on two Caerphilly secondary schools who had indicated via a WASACRE Welsh Baccalaureate survey that they were not meeting the statutory requirement in respect of the provision of RE at Key Stage 4. Mrs Thomas has now contacted these schools to ascertain whether they understood and answered the survey question correctly, and to establish a suitable course of action if needed. Mrs Thomas confirmed that one school had reintroduced Short Course with all pupils and were now meeting the requirements of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. At the other school, the issue was raised with the Welsh Baccalaureate co-ordinator and he was going to take up the matter with the Headteacher. The school has since returned a SACRE survey relating to Key Stage 4 provision and this shows that an additional timetabled lesson has now been allocated for the provision of RE, which appears to have resolved the matter.

SACRE thanked Mrs Thomas for the updates. There were no other matters arising.

6. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Members were advised that efforts are being made to fill SACRE's vacant co-opted position, which was previously held by a representative from Race Equalities First and is allocated to this or a similar equalities organisation. The Clerk to SACRE has recently approached Race Council Cymru to seek recommendations for a potential co-opted member. It was suggested that the Clerk also contact GEMS (Gwent Education Minority-Ethnic Service) who may be able to assist on this matter.

Attempts are also being made to secure representatives of non-Christian faith communities from the principal religions to support the work that SACRE is doing. The Clerk to SACRE has contacted the head offices for the Hindu and Buddhist faiths in Wales, with a view to seeking a suitable person to sit on SACRE as a local faith community member

SACRE noted the details of the membership update.

7. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2017: FEEDBACK

The Clerk to SACRE summarised the numerous events which took place across Caerphilly to mark this International Day of Remembrance, including coffee mornings, Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) displays and poetry readings in Risca, Rhymney, Blackwood and Abertridwr Libraries.

SACRE Members were invited to the official ceremony held at Blackwood Miners' Institute on Friday 27th January 2017, which included a welcome from the Leader of the Council, and was followed by a number of poignant readings from pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Following the lighting of the commemorative candle, guests were invited to view a special book of poetry written by pupils from the school, which will raise money for Save The Children.

Ahead of the day itself, a letter was sent to all schools on behalf of SACRE to advise them of the resources available via the HMD website and encouraging them to mark the event in some way. SACRE Members were also sent a link to the Events page of the website, which listed other commemorative events across Wales that were being held on and around Holocaust Memorial Day 2017.

SACRE remarked on the impressive book of poetry written by the Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni pupils and were pleased to note the moving commemorative events that had taken place across the county borough to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2017.

8. ANALYSIS OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016

Mrs Thomas presented an analysis of examination results at GCSE, AS and A Level by Caerphilly pupils in Religious Studies and Religious Education for 2016. The report also summarised the 2016 results in comparison to the previous two years, the Regional Consortia figure (comprising the five South East Wales local authorities) and the All Wales figure. For the first time, the percentage of the cohort (students within a particular Key Stage) entered for RE courses was also included in the report. Further information detailing the attainment results for each Caerphilly school was also tabled to Members at the meeting.

SACRE referred to an increase in the number of schools entering candidates compared to previous years and it was confirmed that the additional information relates to pupils at Glan y Nant Learning Centre.

At **GCSE (Full Course)** the results across all grade boundaries (27.7% at A* - A, 71.1% at A* - C and 97.8% at A* - G) are considered to be good and compare well with the performance across previous years. At all grade boundaries, results are better than the Consortia figures and are comparable with the All Wales figures.

At **GCSE (Short Course)** the results at A* - A (13.8%) and A* - C (45.8%) are below previous performance but at A* - G (92.9%) are better than 2015 performance (which was considered to be a very strong year) and are also better than the Consortia and All Wales figures. A significant number continue to be entered for Short Course which is very encouraging because it provides pupils with the opportunity for accreditation for their Key Stage 4 study. It was noted that pupils do not usually opt to follow the Short Course as it is delivered as part of the Statutory Requirements for RE.

The results for **A Level** Religious Studies highlighted lower entry figures than 2015 but an increase on 2014. Performance at A* - A (13.1%) is comparable to 2015 but below the Consortia figure and All Wales figures. At A* - C, the pass rate (69.1%) is below previous performance and the Consortia and All Wales figures. Members were pleased to note the pass rate for grades A* - E (98.8%), which although below the previous outstanding performance of 100%, is still a very good result, and is comparable to the Consortia and All Wales figures.

At **AS Level** Religious Studies, no A grades were achieved, but A - C grades (42.9%) are better than 2015 and A - E grades (71.5%) were similar to 2015. The entry figure and number of schools entering pupils have increased this year. Cohort entry is higher than the Consortia figure but below the All Wales figure. Mrs Thomas explained that this data only included those students who had 'cashed in' their result (which avoids the same results being counted twice) and advised Members that because of this situation, the AS statistics need to be considered with caution.

Having fully considered and discussed the report, SACRE noted the analysis of examination results in Religious Studies and Religious Education for 2016 and agreed that a letter be circulated to all secondary schools to inform them of the analysis of results.

9. UPDATE ON GCSE CONSORTIA ARRANGEMENTS/REVISED WJEC SPECIFICATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

The report detailed the ongoing support available to teachers and schools arising from the revised specifications for GCSE Religious Studies, which have been approved and are in place for first teaching from September 2017.

Members noted the details of recent WJEC training days (entitled *WJEC GCSE Religious Studies Route A and B Preparing to Teach*). Mrs Thomas explained that these courses had been heavily subscribed and well received, and highlighted the ongoing concerns raised by teaching staff as to whether the new Religious Studies course book (containing the revised specifications) will be ready ahead of first teaching in September 2017.

Members were also updated on progress made by the four educational consortia across Wales in developing a support programme for teaching staff. At its Spring Term meeting, WASACRE received a presentation outlining the collaborative arrangements in place between the ERW Consortium (Mid/West Wales) and WJEC. It is intended that the sharing and good practices that are being developed will tie in with other Consortia across Wales.

Mrs Thomas advised SACRE that she has been regularly updated on the support programme being developed by the South East Wales EAS Consortia (including the Caerphilly local authority). EAS will appoint an Advisor to lead and co-ordinate the work of GCSE curriculum hubs, and who will be SACRE's main contact point for progress updates. RE co-ordinators from two lead schools (King Henry VIII and Ebbw Fawr Learning Community) have recently been appointed to develop a support programme for the new GCSE Religious Studies specifications. EAS recently met with these schools to determine the forward work programme and it is hoped that they will attend SACRE's Autumn 2017 meeting to deliver a presentation on the new specifications and their impact on the delivery of the RE Syllabus.

It is planned for the GwE (North Wales) Consortia to provide an update on their support arrangements at WASACRE's Summer Term meeting, and it has been suggested that the EAS and Central South Consortium deliver a similar update at WASACRE's Autumn Term meeting. In closing, Mrs Thomas explained that the emphasis is very much on sharing good practice and materials across Wales to support schools during the implementation of the revised specifications, and confirmed that progression is continuing well in this area.

During the course of the discussion on this item, a teacher representative Member advised SACRE that she had been unaware of the Consortia arrangements regarding the new specifications. It was suggested that although SACRE use several established contact points when distributing information to schools, other agencies may not be following this practice and therefore such messages are not being received by the most relevant person.

Mrs Thomas outlined her intention to contact the RE co-ordinators at the lead schools to discuss the work developed to date on the new specifications, and to seek clarification on how the lead schools intend to operate. Members acknowledged the limited time remaining before the implementation of the revised specifications and the pressures placed on schools as a result. Mrs Thomas also confirmed that she would seek permission for SACRE to circulate to schools the details of the next GCSE Religious Studies Network meeting being held on 28th June 2017, which will be an opportunity to share good practice and develop an understanding of the new specification requirements.

Following discussion on its contents, SACRE Members noted the report in respect of the revised WJEC specifications and the support available to schools.

10. NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW: UPDATE

The report outlined the latest developments regarding the review of the National Curriculum in Wales and the shape of the new curriculum.

Members were reminded of the Donaldson review of the curriculum which recommended that Religious Education should form part of the Humanities Areas of Learning and Experience (AOLE), and remain a statutory curriculum requirement. Manon Jones of Welsh Government (WG) is leading the Pioneer schools which are developing the new curriculum, together with two of the AOLE, namely Humanities, and Language and Literacy. Extracts from the latest Curriculum for Wales newsletter were appended to the report, which outlined the progress being made in the development of the new curriculum.

Mrs Thomas explained that a number of meetings have been held with Manon Jones and the Pioneer Schools to discuss and establish the way forward regarding this AOLE. WASACRE recently attended a meeting with the Minister for Education to pose a question around the status of the Agreed Syllabus in light of the proposal that RE becomes part of the Humanities AOLE. Following proactive discussions at this meeting, it has been determined that the shape of the future curriculum should include discrete subject areas within each AOLE. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to view a number of different teaching models at WASACRE meetings in 2017/18.

Discussion took place on the contents of the report and Members expressed a need for consistency in the approach towards the shape and delivery of the new curriculum. It was noted that the National Advisory Panel for RE (NAPfRE) have drafted some guidelines for consideration by the Pioneer schools, and are hoping to meet with these schools in the near future to expand on the reasoning and philosophy behind this document.

Following discussion of the report, Members noted the developments relating to the position of RE in the curriculum.

11. ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP BY THE PUPILS OF TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL

SACRE adjourned from the meeting room at 2.35 p.m. to view the act of collective worship.

Mrs Tracey McGuirk provided an introduction to the afternoon assembly, which is hosted by an alternating class each day and broadcasts simultaneously around the other classrooms within the school. This style of assembly uses calming music and images to encourage a relaxing environment prior to the end of the school day, and provides the opportunity for pupils to reflect on the day's learning, activities and experiences.

SACRE split into two groups in order to observe the act of collective worship from the perspective of different classes. Members were impressed by the children's attentiveness during the assembly and the ways in which they interacted with their classmates and teachers and the other classes during this session. SACRE enjoyed the singing during the assembly and were pleased to note the enthusiastic participation and engagement of all those in attendance.

SACRE expressed their thanks to the pupils and staff for allowing them to join in their act of collective worship, and reconvened in the meeting room at 2.55 p.m.

12. ESTYN ANNUAL REMIT 2017/18

The report summarised the Cabinet Secretary for Education's annual remit to Estyn, which is additional to Estyn's core business of inspections. This document sets out the specific advice required by the Welsh Government in 2017/18 and an indicative forward look at advice likely to be required by the Welsh Government in 2018/19.

Included in the report to SACRE was an extract from the Annual Estyn Remit 2017/18 (RE specifics). This referred to a thematic review of religious and moral education at Key Stages 2 and 3, which would be included in the remit to Estyn for 2017/18. This review forms part of a series of reports on curriculum subject areas and will build on the 2013 WG report on Religious Education in Key Stage 4.

Members were advised that Mark Campion (Estyn Inspector) will address WASACRE regarding this matter at their Summer Term meeting, and that SACRE will be updated on the contents of the thematic review following its publication.

SACRE noted the update relating to the Estyn Annual Remit 2017/18.

13. CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

Members were updated on the correspondence circulated to schools on behalf of SACRE, which included information on the Farmington Scholarships for 2017-2018, details of the resources available to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2017, advice on the GCSE specification for RE and Sample Assessment Materials, and circulation of SACRE's Annual Report for 2015-16.

Members were also reminded that at the Autumn 2016 meeting of SACRE, it had been agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would write to all secondary schools in Caerphilly in relation to statutory requirements for RE at Key Stage 4. Separate letters were subsequently emailed to all primary and secondary schools in January 2017 to remind them of the statutory requirements for Religious Education. All schools were asked to return an enclosed proforma to confirm that they had read and understood the statutory requirements. The secondary schools were also asked to outline how they deliver RE at Key Stage 4.

Having collated the responses received, the Clerk to SACRE emailed all outstanding schools in February 2017 to ask that they acknowledge receipt as soon as possible. To date, 36 out of 76 primary schools and 9 out of 15 secondary schools have returned a completed proforma. A summary of the responses received was tabled at the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the low response rate and Officers stressed the importance of the message that had been sent to the schools and the pressing need for schools to understand their statutory legal obligations in relation to the delivery of Religious Education. This exercise will allow SACRE to identify any RE issues in schools and offer support and guidance where needed. It was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would email a second reminder to the outstanding schools and stipulate a response deadline date. Details of any outstanding schools past this date will be forwarded to Mrs Jacquelyn Elias (Service Manager - Additional Learning Needs) and Mrs Keri Cole (Chief Education Officer) so that further action can be taken on this matter.

Mrs Thomas summarised the responses received from secondary schools to date. Some schools cite the use of the new Welsh Baccaalaureate qualification as one component in delivering RE at Key Stage 4. Mrs Thomas explained that this would not be sufficient on its own to meet the statutory requirements, but that the relevant schools have included additional activities to complement the programme of study and demonstrate how they meet these requirements. Mrs Thomas expressed concerns over the use by some schools of “Thought of The Day” time to deliver RE, explaining that it is clearly stated in the agreed syllabus that time allocated to this is distinct from and separate to RE in schools. Also this time is for delivery of collective worship and not RE. Some schools may also believe that registration periods are suitable for the delivery of RE. However, this is a pastoral activity set aside for the registration period, and Mrs Thomas expressed a need for it to be reiterated to schools that they should ensure that the programmes of study of the agreed syllabus are delivered and it is highly unlikely that either of these activities are a suitable means of delivering RE to pupils. It also shows a lack of status for the subject and a lack of parity for RE with other curriculum subjects.

It was observed by SACRE that the delivery of RE at Key Stage 4 according to the locally agreed syllabus is becoming an increasing concern across many local authorities in Wales, with Officers sharing information and best practice with their counterparts on the way forward in addressing this issue with schools. It was agreed that once all the Caerphilly school responses have been collated, they will be assessed by Officers from the Education Directorate to determine whether further action or challenge is needed on this matter. SACRE will also examine the full set of responses at its Summer Term meeting to establish whether schools need to be asked further questions regarding their programme of study.

SACRE were pleased to note the positive outcomes arising from this exercise to date and noted the details of the correspondence update.

14. WASACRE - FEEDBACK FROM THE WASACRE MEETING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE – 18TH NOVEMBER 2016

Members were updated on the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at its meeting in Carmarthenshire on 18th November 2016. A copy of the draft minutes was included in the meeting papers.

A number of items considered at the WASACRE meeting were discussed throughout the course of SACRE’s meeting, including a presentation on the support for schools in delivering the new GCSE specification for Religious Studies (including the role of Lead Practitioners), and an update on the National Curriculum Review.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at the Carmarthenshire meeting.

15. WASACRE - FEEDBACK FROM THE WASACRE SPRING MEETING IN USK, MONMOUTHSHIRE ON 3RD MARCH 2017

Mrs Thomas provided a verbal update on the discussions and deliberation of WASACRE at its meeting in Monmouthshire on 3rd March 2017. She explained that it had been a very insightful meeting, with many of the items also discussed at the SACRE meeting. These included two presentations from NAPfRE (*Teaching Religious Education within a Humanities curriculum* and *Enriching the modern curriculum from a pioneer school perspective*) and a presentation from Manon Jones (*Work of the pioneer school network and the Humanities Areas of Learning and Experience*). Some issues were raised by WASACRE members regarding whether schools were fully delivering the agreed syllabus for RE, particularly at secondary school level, either through a Humanities approach or through the use of registration time. Members were asked to take this matter up with their SACREs.

SACRE noted the discussions and deliberations of WASACRE at the Monmouthshire meeting.

16. REPRESENTATION AT THE FORTHCOMING WASACRE SUMMER MEETING IN WREXHAM ON FRIDAY 7TH JULY 2017

Members were advised of the date and time of forthcoming WASACRE meetings and sought nominations for representation from Caerphilly SACRE.

Mrs V. Thomas expressed an interest in attending the WASACRE meeting on 7th July 2017 (Wrexham). Further nominations will be sought at SACRE's Summer Term meeting. Interested Members will be contacted with the agenda papers nearer to the meeting date and the Clerk to SACRE will inform WASACRE of the attendees.

17. EXECUTIVE VOTING 2017 - NOMINATIONS TO THE WASACRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SACRE were informed of the correspondence received from WASACRE in relation to nominations for new Members to the WASACRE Executive Committee.

No nominations were received at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk to SACRE would recirculate nomination details to all Members via email and forward any subsequent nominations received to WASACRE by the closing date of 31st March 2017.

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance at their meeting. He requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Trinity Fields School to express SACRE's appreciation for the warm welcome they had received from pupils and staff at the school and for allowing SACRE to view their act of collective worship.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2017, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

Agenda Item 8

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 19TH JUNE 2017

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE RE SURVEY OF SCHOOLS - STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform SACRE of the results of a survey sent to secondary schools in relation to statutory requirements for Religious Education at Key Stage 4
2. To look at provision and delivery of statutory RE at KS4. It is a statutory requirement to provide religious education.

B BACKGROUND

This survey was arranged in order to identify the ways that Caerphilly schools are meeting statutory requirements.

C RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Caerphilly SACRE discuss and note the report.
2. That Caerphilly SACRE inform schools of the outcomes and ask them to take the appropriate action as necessary.
3. That Caerphilly SACRE raise this issue with Estyn when inspectors are looking at statutory requirements for RE being met at Key Stage 4.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

An analysis of the survey findings will be provided at the meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 9

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 19TH JUNE 2017

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: REVISED GCSE AND GCE SPECIFICATIONS FOR RS – UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the revised GCSE RS Specifications and the support available to schools.

B BACKGROUND

EAS have appointed two lead practitioners to support schools with the implementation of the new Religious Studies GCSE specifications to be taught from September 2017.

- Rhian Davies – King Henry VIII
- Clare Lane - Ebbw Fawr LC

A network meeting has been organised for 28th June 2017 at King Henry VIII School in Abergavenny, NP7 6EP. It will run from 2-4pm.

HODs wishing to book a place should do so via CPD online.

Some work has already been done by the GCSE lead practitioners on mapping out Christianity and Hinduism and other religions will follow. This will be shared at the meeting on June 28th

The venue may well change to accommodate teachers from different local authorities.

Caerphilly SACRE has already sent a letter (May 2017) informing schools of the event.

Funding has been secured for Rhian Davies to continue for the next academic year 2017/18. There is an intention to hold one network meeting per term. There is also an expectation that the GCSE lead will go out to schools to support where necessary.

C RECOMMENDATION

For Caerphilly SACRE to discuss and note the report.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 10

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 19TH JUNE 2017

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NATIONAL CURRICULUM REVIEW

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Caerphilly SACRE on the latest developments regarding the National Curriculum Review.

B BACKGROUND

Professor Donaldson report and recommendations in *Successful Futures was that Religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.*

In October 2015 'A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life' document outlined the plan for taking forward Professor Donaldson's recommendations

The timeline and process has been as follows:

Step 1: Representatives to attend induction events.

Step 2: Representatives from the pioneer schools will work within areas of learning and experience (ALE) in order to consider the 'big questions' of curriculum development, e.g. what is the scope of each ALE? What are the connections between ALEs?

Step 3: Representatives from the pioneer schools will consider the strands within each area of learning and experience.

Manon Jones is responsible for the pioneer schools and two areas of learning and experience (AOLE), Humanities and Language and Literacy.

C RECOMMENDATION

For Caerphilly SACRE to note the details of the update.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 Meetings with Welsh Government Spring Term 2017 - Update

MEETINGS WITH WELSH GOVERNMENT SPRING TERM 2017 - UPDATE

02/03/17 – WASACRE meeting with Cabinet Minister Kirsty Williams

Executive members met with the Minister, Kirsty Williams. The status of the Agreed Syllabus was discussed and reference made to schools who may not be meeting statutory requirements. The Minister asked for evidence that schools are not complying with statutory requirements. The Minister stated that schools should be meeting higher standards and was adamant, therefore, that all schools must follow the Agreed Syllabus. If they did not they could not meet those required standards.

27/03/17 – RE Planning Meeting with Welsh Government Officials

Welsh Government representatives plus Edward Evans, Vicky Thomas (WASACRE) Mary Parry, Paula Webber (NAPfRE) Michelle Gosney (Estyn)

Item: Relationship between the locally agreed syllabus, the statutory requirements and the new curriculum framework

A brief background into agreed syllabus development was provided and reference made to problems that have arisen in the past with the Foundation Phase document. Agreed syllabuses and SACREs would still have a role to play with WG enquiring about the time frame and process for an agreed syllabus Conference.

Action

- WG to investigate what happened with the Foundation Phase during the last curriculum review in order to try to avoid the same thing happening this time.

Item: Working together to develop the RE aspect of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience

A draft timeline for the development of the AOLEs was provided by MJ. It was agreed that greater involvement was necessary with SACREs and WASACRE in the development of the new curriculum.

Action

- 2-3 representatives from NAPfRE/WASACRE to attend Pioneer group workshop on 2nd and 3rd May to contribute to discussions about the group's proposals regarding the scope and structure of the Humanities from an RE perspective. (MP, GV, BJ)
- WG to explore the commissioning of a short paper from NAPfRE/WASACRE in relation to the key concepts within Religious Education to assist with the curriculum development work.
- WG would like WASACRE and NAPfRE to share meeting dates for 2017-2018 so that a timeline for regular meetings can be put in place.
- Curriculum developments will be shared via a newsletter to SACREs which will be sent from WG to SACRE clerks. SACREs will be able to then respond to the Newsletter by email to Manon Jones. Paula Webber as Secretary to WASACRE is to be copied into responses.

Item: Matters to consider which may impact the curriculum reform process

• RE for Nursery children

Would legislation be amended as currently RE was statutory from reception onwards, whereas Successful Futures covers the age range from 3 to 16. It was confirmed that Welsh Government had not yet legislated on this area and that there was not to be a separate case for RE.

- **Post 16 Religious Education**

It was agreed that the issue of delivery at Post 16 required further consideration and discussion.

- **Managing withdrawal from RE**

Reference was made to issues surrounding withdrawal (for example parents partially withdrawing their children from RE – lack of clarity for parents on the content of RE) and that there was the need to clearly identify RE within the new curriculum framework. It was agreed that the WASACRE paper on withdrawal from RE to be shared with WG and that RE would need to be clearly identified in the new curriculum framework to allow learners to be withdrawn.

- **Relationship between the new curriculum framework and qualifications**

Concerns were raised that the new Religious Studies GCSE appeared to be at odds with the proposals contained within Successful Futures. This has been raised by WASACRE with Qualifications Wales but there has been no response received. Discussion arose around the feasibility to introduce another qualification (similar to the current 'spec B' short course in RS) so that statutory RE at Key Stage 4 could be accredited.

Welsh government confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary's view on this area was quite clear that the nature and content of qualifications was in the hands of the Qualifications Wales as the regulator in Wales. The lack of response from Qualifications Wales to the correspondence from WASACRE would be followed up. Also it was confirmed that Welsh Government were working with Qualifications Wales during the curriculum development process to ensure that future qualifications align with the new curriculum.

Next Steps

Date of the next meeting 17th July 2017

12/04/17 – Stakeholders meeting

Stakeholders raised some issues for discussion e.g. whether there would be a change of name for RE – there was no answer given to this question as no decisions have been made; consideration should be given to consistency of approach between the different AOLE groups: issues of progression from KS3 to KS4.

02/05/17 – AOLE Planning Meeting (MP& BJ attended)

Purpose of meeting

- Agree on a 'statement' showing how the ALE promotes the 4 purposes
- Outline the compass of the ALE – not only Geography, History and RE
- Discuss the best way of presenting the range of subjects
- Discuss the level of detail that should be included for the ALE
- Prepare a report that can be presented to a Curriculum Panel (chaired by Prof GD) on behalf of the ALE on 23.05.17

Background reading

Other curricula:

References were made during the day to the background reading undertaken by members of the Humanities ALE group. Members mentioned that they have explored the curriculum documents of: Scotland, New Zealand, British Columbia, Singapore.

Working with Big Ideas in Science Education (ed. Wynne Harlen et al).

It was suggested that the various disciplines within the Humanities ALE should identify the Big Ideas that are pertinent to each discipline.

Curriculum for Excellence: A brilliant idea but...(Mark Priestley and Sarah Minty)

This is an early evaluation of the impact of the Scottish Curriculum of Excellence. The Humanities AOLE teachers were asked to reflect on this article and discuss a series of questions.

Approaches to specifying curriculum areas of learning (Mark Priestley)

WG have commissioned Mark Priestley to write this paper. The Humanities AOLE teachers were asked to reflect on this article and discuss a series of questions

The Welsh Curriculum Review: Developing a Curriculum Framework (Eleanor Rawling)

WG have commissioned Eleanor Rawling to write this paper and she was present at the meeting to outline her recommendations. She argued that each discipline should identify the big ideas, concepts, skills and processes which were essential to a subject or which define the subject. She asks teachers to identify the '*fundamentals*', the '*core*', the '*key*' aspects or even the '*minimum*'. Teachers should be given curriculum planning criteria as guidance on how to use the big ideas, skills, processes to develop a meaningful curriculum. There should be a national required content outline for the periods between the progression steps in order to ensure some consistency, but that schools should further develop content which was relevant to their locality and school context. It would help the 'builders' (the ALE teachers?) to identify 'overlaps' in content, skills and processes. She exemplified her thinking further by outlining what geography was useful/important for a 11 year old/ 14 year old/16 year old. This detail would also have to promote the 4 Purposes.

Further information:

- Teachers were asked to form subject groups in order to identify one big idea which could be developed like the Science 'Big Ideas'.
- References were made to the CAMAU group which would be responsible for mapping the progression steps and assessment strategies.
- It's likely that external subject experts/academics will undertake some of the responsibilities for writing the 'subject' detail of the new curriculum. MJ suggested that WASACRE could be commissioned to write a paper.
- The Humanities group will meet again on the 6 June 2017. This will be the last meeting for this academic year.

ACTION POINTS for WASACRE and NAPfRE members

- What are the big ideas of Religious Education? Can we identify the 'minimum' Big Ideas, skills, processes and criteria for selecting components of an RE curriculum? It would be useful to submit some statements similar to the ones noted for Science and exemplify them to show the progression of knowledge and understanding from FP to 16+.

Agenda Item 11

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 19TH JUNE 2017

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT: ESTYN UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Caerphilly SACRE on the outcome of a meeting held with Estyn on Monday 5th June 2017.

B BACKGROUND

Date: Monday 5th June 2.00pm – 3.30pm.

Venue: Estyn Offices, Anchor Court, Keen Road, Cardiff, CF24 5JW.

Attendees: Vicky Thomas, Mary Parry and Gill Vaisey will attend on behalf of WASACRE/NAPfRE. Meilyr Rowlands HMCI, Claire Morgan, Strategic Director and Mark Campion, HM Inspector will represent Estyn.

Proposed Agenda Items:

1. The thematic review of Religious Education at KS2-KS3.
2. Current inspection of RE – Meeting statutory requirements according to an agreed syllabus for Religious Education.
3. KS4 RE.
4. The new Estyn Inspection Framework from September 2017 and RE.

C RECOMMENDATION

For Caerphilly SACRE to note the details of the update.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 12

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 19TH JUNE 2017

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

A BACKGROUND

An update will be provided on the correspondence sent to schools on behalf of Caerphilly SACRE. This includes a letter which has been sent to secondary schools to advise them of a forthcoming GCSE Network meeting, which will offer support regarding the implementation of the revised Religious Studies GCSE specifications to be taught from September 2017.

B RECOMMENDATION

For Caerphilly SACRE to note the details of the update.

C SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 Letter sent to all secondary schools - Support available for revised Religious Studies GCSE Specifications

This page is intentionally left blank

Penallta House,
Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Tŷ Penallta,
Parc Tredomen,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Deputy Chief Executive / Dirprwy Brif Weithredw
Nigel Barnett ICSA, CIPD, MBA



www.caerphilly.gov.uk
www.caerffili.gov.uk

ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Interim Head of
Legal Services and
Monitoring Officer
Gail Williams LL.B
Solicitor**

**Pennaeth Gwasanaethau
Chyfreithiol a Swyddog
Monitro Dos Do
Gail Williams LL.B
Cyfreithiwr**

Your Ref/Eich Cyf: SACRE/RB
Our Ref/Ein Cyf: Rebecca Barrett
Contact/Cyslltwch â: 01443 864245
Telephone/Ffon: barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk
E Mail/E Bost: 5th June 2017
Date/Dyddiad:

Dear Head Teacher / Head of RE,

Support Available - Revised Religious Studies GCSE Specifications

SACRE wish to inform you of the support that is being made available to schools with the implementation of the revised Religious Studies GCSE specifications to be taught from September 2017. The information below has already been sent to schools via the EAS School Bulletin but SACRE wish to ensure that all schools are aware of the GCSE support available.

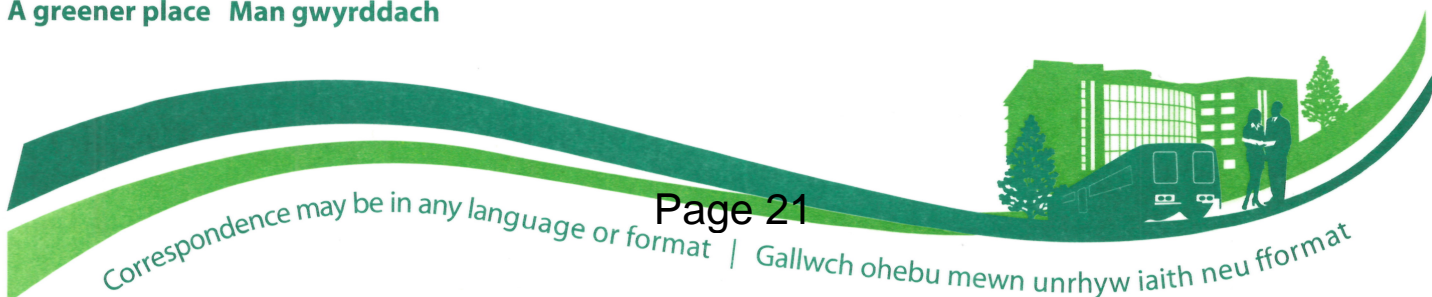
EAS have appointed two GCSE lead practitioners in Religious Studies to support schools with this implementation. They are Rhian Davies of King Henry VIII School and Clare Lane of Ebbw Fawr LC.

A network meeting has been organized by the GCSE lead practitioners for **28th June 2017 at King Henry VIII School in Abergavenny, NP7 6EP**. It will run from 2-4pm. You can apply using the course code given to you in the EAS School Bulletin.

Some of the items on the agenda for discussion include:

1. Discussion of options that schools have chosen with perhaps the grouping of schools together who have chosen the same religion combination so that they can support each other.
2. Preparation of SAMs to create a bank of SAMS materials to share such as a selection of papers and mark schemes that can be used as examples, tests, assessments etc
3. Tracking progress by discussing mechanisms to track progress and identify underachievement
4. Cost effectiveness by going paperless, as far as possible. Consideration of creation of our own resources e.g. Hinduism text book, as WJEC does not include Hinduism
5. Specified texts activities, similar to the SAMS activity above, to provide activities to help students understand and apply the specified texts.
6. Schemes of Learning – layout, sharing of ideas, division of tasks to create schemes of learning.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



There is also an intention for the Lead Practitioners to provide in-school support. The detail of this process is yet to be worked out and will be discussed at the meeting.

The intention of the lead practitioners is to try to address the needs of schools and would welcome any ideas and suggestions from colleagues. For further enquiries please contact Rhian Davies by email on DaviesRH@KHS.SchoolsEdu.org.uk

SACRE welcomes such support to school at this very important time and would encourage schools to take advantage of this opportunity for support and advice in preparation for implementation in September 2017.

Yours faithfully,



Rebecca Barrett
Clerk to Caerphilly SACRE

Agenda Item 15

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DATE: 19TH JUNE 2017

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

SUBJECT: WASACRE EXECUTIVE VOTING 2017-2020

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To discuss the nominations in respect of the Executive Committee and Vice-Chair of WASACRE and ensure WASACRE receive the voting preferences of Caerphilly SACRE (ahead of the WASACRE meeting on 7th July 2017).

B BACKGROUND

There are two vacancies on the WASACRE Executive Committee, together with the position of Vice Chair of WASACRE.

The bilingual pen portraits of those nominated for Executive Membership and for the Role of Vice Chair of WASACRE are attached.

SACREs have been asked to vote for **ONE** of TWO candidates for the position of Vice Chair. Additionally, there are TWO nominations for TWO positions on the Executive Committee.

C RECOMMENDATIONS

For Caerphilly SACRE to discuss and note the nominations received and ensure that their votes are cast at the WASACRE meeting on 7th July 2017.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1 Nominations for the Executive Committee and for the position of Vice-Chair for WASACRE.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (7 July 2017)

There are TWO nominations for TWO positions on the Executive Committee.

1. Alison Lewis Swansea SACRE

I am a Swansea University Philosophy graduate and mother of two boys. I have served as Head of the Religious Education Department at Cefn Hengoed Community School in Swansea since 2001. On arrival my mission was to turn the department around by ensuring that every pupil at Cefn Hengoed had the opportunity to study a subject that could not only provide them with an important GCSE qualification, but one that is so rich in essential life skills. So, despite having only 2 hours per fortnight on the curriculum, I tailored the GCSE course to allow it to be taught under these constraints and became the first non-denominational school in Wales to have full cohort entry for GCSE Religious Studies, including every pupil in our Specialist Teaching Facility.

My department has gone from strength to strength, and in a time when subject hours are being cut across the curriculum, I have been proactive in securing more curriculum time to provide pupils with well-rounded and balanced religious education, abundant in skills and values essential for life as young adults. I am proud that RE is recognised as a valuable subject in my school but I understand that this is not the same everywhere, and feel that part of my work is to ensure that RE is given its rightful place in all schools. A 'token gesture' approach to RE is not enough; it is vital that statutory obligations are adhered to and meaningful RE is being taught across all schools in Wales.

During my teaching career to date, I have been a WJEC examiner of GCSE Religious Studies and was selected to work alongside Gavin Craigen as moderator for levelling standardisation in Religious Education in 2012. I have also served on the Swansea SACRE for many years as Vice Chair and now Chairperson, and have represented my SACRE at WASACRE conferences.

In addition to my full time teaching commitment, I am currently working with ERW as a Lead Practitioner for Religious Education. My role is to equip teachers of RE with the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to teach the new 'GCSE Specification in RS 2017', to prepare for the new qualification through setting up network meetings and create collaboration opportunities as well as creating resources on the Welsh Government's digital platform, Hwb, for colleagues in Wales. I have presented the Lead Practitioner's progress at recent network, SACRE and WJEC conferences.

I have been a part of Literacy and Numeracy pilot projects in my school and have shared good practice amongst colleagues in network meetings. I will soon be developing aspects of the Donaldson approach on Digital Competency through RE by collaborating with IT specialists to produce Moodle courses for the new Specification for RS using Hwb.

I believe that my experience will allow me to make a valuable contribution to the WASACRE Executive Committee and I would find it a privilege to serve, for the good of my subject and colleagues in Wales.

2. Gill Vaisey Monmouthshire SACRE

Gill Vaisey is a qualified teacher and Religious Education Consultant specialising in primary and early years education. After studying for her B.Ed. Hons Degree, with Religious Studies as her specialist subject, she taught primary age children before taking up a post as Advisory Teacher for Religious Education in Gwent followed by a similar post with Mid Glamorgan. Since 1996, Gill has been a successful freelance consultant providing training and support for LAs, Dioceses and schools across Wales and England and is now a nationally known figure in the UK for her work with RE and Early Years children.

Gill is the professional consultant to Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Cardiff SACREs and until recently also supported the Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taf SACREs.

Relevant experiences include:

- An active member of the Welsh Association of SACREs since its inception and currently an Executive Member;
- Providing professional expertise to Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire SACREs since 1996 and to Cardiff SACRE since 2014;
- Writing Agreed Syllabuses for RE and accompanying comprehensive teachers' support, planning and assessment material for several Local Authorities in Wales;
- Regular training and consultancy for primary teachers and Early Years practitioners across both Wales and England;
- Providing training and advice to Local Authorities and Church Dioceses across Wales and England;
- A member of the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education, of which she was chairperson for three years;
- Producing Key Stage 1 books and teachers' resources commissioned by ACCAC;
- Direct involvement and support with various DfES projects;
- Producing and publishing free and purchasable resources (Books at Press) to support the Foundation Phase Curriculum in Wales, the EYFS and KS1 curriculum in England and the Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland;
- Close links with a wide range of faith communities and individual representatives;
- A member of the UK Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC) and currently executive committee member representing Wales and regularly providing seminars for its members;
- WASACRE representative on the REC (Religious Education Council for England and Wales);
- Attended 2016 EFTRE (European forum for Teachers of RE) conference in Vienna;
- Represented WASACRE at EFTRE Board Meeting in Athens, April 2017;
- Attended meeting with Kirsty Williams and other Welsh Government Officials, March 2017, as part of the NAPfRE delegation of representatives;

- Actively working with NAPfRE members to support the Pioneer Schools in the development of the RE element of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience; and
- Attending Welsh Government convened meetings with the Pioneer Schools Network.

The ethos behind Gill's consultancy is to promote and support excellence in religious education in schools and educational establishments.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACRES (7 JULY 2017)

1. Councillor Ernie Galsworthy Merthyr Tudfil SACRE

I have been a SACRE member since May 2012 after I was elected to council. I was previously a councillor from 1987 until 2004, and served on Merthyr Tydfil SACRE during this period and also attended WASACRE meetings.

I was brought up in a Welsh Baptist environment and until the age of 5 lived with my grandmother, a Welsh speaker, who unfortunately did not teach Welsh to my mother although, did her best to teach me. Consequently after her death I lost the language and did not pick it back up again until the late 1990's when I attended a WPLAN course at Cardiff University.

I hold pacifist views and my great heroes are Mahatma Gandhi, John Lennon and Jesus Christ, all three were pacifists and met violent deaths. Being a pacifist is a dangerous way of living and sometimes courage is needed to live this life.

I am also the council representative on the Committee of Nuclear Free Local Authorities which I believe reflects how I wish to live in peace.

My three heroes were a Hindu, an atheist and a Christian. While I do not believe totally in the views of my heroes I have great respect for them and it is respect for all religions which I believe is fundamental for world peace.

2. Gill Vaisey Monmouthshire SACRE

Gill Vaisey is a qualified teacher and Religious Education Consultant specialising in primary and early years education. After studying for her B.Ed. Hons Degree, with Religious Studies as her specialist subject, she taught primary age children before taking up a post as Advisory Teacher for Religious Education in Gwent followed by a similar post with Mid Glamorgan. Since 1996, Gill has been a successful freelance consultant providing training and support for LAs, Dioceses and schools across Wales and England and is now a nationally known figure in the UK for her work with RE and Early Years children.

Gill is the professional consultant to Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Cardiff SACREs and until recently also supported the Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taf SACREs.

Relevant experiences include:

- An active member of the Welsh Association of SACREs since its inception and currently an Executive Member;
- Providing professional expertise to Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire SACREs since 1996 and to Cardiff SACRE since 2014;
- Writing Agreed Syllabuses for RE and accompanying comprehensive teachers' support, planning and assessment material for several Local Authorities in Wales;
- Regular training and consultancy for primary teachers and Early Years practitioners across both Wales and England;
- Providing training and advice to Local Authorities and Church Dioceses across Wales and England;
- A member of the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education, of which she was chairperson for three years;
- Producing Key Stage 1 books and teachers' resources commissioned by ACCAC;
- Direct involvement and support with various DfES projects;
- Producing and publishing free and purchasable resources (Books at Press) to support the Foundation Phase Curriculum in Wales, the EYFS and KS1 curriculum in England and the Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland;
- Close links with a wide range of faith communities and individual representatives;
- A member of the UK Association of RE Advisers, Inspectors and Consultants (AREIAC) and currently executive committee member representing Wales and regularly providing seminars for its members;
- WASACRE representative on the REC (Religious Education Council for England and Wales);
- Attended 2016 EFTRE (European forum for Teachers of RE) conference in Vienna;
- Represented WASACRE at EFTRE Board Meeting in Athens, April 2017;
- Attended meeting with Kirsty Williams and other Welsh Government Officials, March 2017, as part of the NAPfRE delegation of representatives;
- Actively working with NAPfRE members to support the Pioneer Schools in the development of the RE element of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience; and
- Attending Welsh Government convened meetings with the Pioneer Schools Network.

The ethos behind Gill's consultancy is to promote and support excellence in religious education in schools and educational establishments.

Gill would like the opportunity to support WASACRE as Vice Chair during this important period of curriculum development and change.

This page is intentionally left blank